

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

APRIL 16, 1860.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. FOSTER made the following

REPORT

[To accompany bill S. 409.]

The Committee on Revolutionary Claims, to whom was referred the memorial of the heirs of Stephen Moylan, deceased, praying that the unsettled state of his accounts shall not be a bar to a grant of half-pay by Congress, beg leave to report:

General Stephen Moylan was a colonel in the revolutionary army in the year 1776, and was immediately afterwards directed by Congress to raise and equip a regiment of light dragoons for the continental service. Having succeeded in raising a regiment, he continued to serve, without intermission, until the close of the war, sometimes commanding his regiment in the field, sometimes acting as quartermaster-general, and at others as a volunteer aid to General Washington.

In the course of the war he had been intrusted with considerable sums of money for the purpose of equipping his regiment and paying the men, and probably for other purposes. As early as 1779 he was charged on the books of the treasurer with \$98,038 67, and at the close of the war this charge remained open against him; the sums paid by him never having been entered to his credit by the accounting officers of the government.

The death of General Moylan, and the subsequent destruction of many of his vouchers, render it impossible to understand the true state of the accounts between him and the government. But there are several facts and circumstances which make it probable that the government was in his debt.

Shortly after the war, several letters were addressed to General Moylan, urging him to make prompt exhibition of his vouchers, with a view to the settlement of his accounts. In pursuance of these letters, as it is presumed, during the year 1790 General Moylan filed his account, in which he claimed a credit of £35,899 10s. 9d., filing therewith, as vouchers, the accounts of several captains of his regiment, to whom, as appears from a letter of Peter Hagner, Esq., filed herewith and made part of this report, he had paid considerable sums of money. Subsequently he filed a second account, in which he claimed £8,478 12s. 1d., the items of which, as appears from the last

mentioned letter, were generally supported by vouchers. These sums united amount to nearly \$120,000, which would leave a considerable balance due to General Moylan.

Previously to the filing of these two accounts, the officers had been urgent in demanding a settlement. After they were filed, instead of urgency on the part of the officers for a settlement, we find them making excuses to General Moylan for their delay in the adjustment of his accounts, which he had been from time to time demanding at their hands. From this fact it may be inferred that both General Moylan and the accounting officers believed that there was a balance due him by the government. But the heirs of General Moylan do not ask payment of the balance which they believe was due to him, but only that the unsettled state of his accounts shall not be permitted to brand him as a defaulter, nor to stand in the way of the allowance by Congress of half-pay to themselves.

The line to which General Moylan was attached having accepted the commutation in lieu of half-pay for life, the committee have agreed to report a bill authorizing his accounts to be balanced at the treasury, and the allowance of five years' full pay of a colonel of cavalry.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Third Auditor's Office, April 5, 1836.

SIR: In looking over the reports made by the Committee on Revolutionary Claims in the House of Representatives, received at this office this morning, I find one made by you on the 24th ultimo on the petition of the heirs of *Stephen Moylan*, and to which is appended a letter which I had the honor of addressing to you on the 7th of January, 1835, and in which I stated that, "on a register of revolutionary claims presented, it is believed, under the acts of Congress suspending for limited periods the limitation acts, I find the name of *Stephen Moylan*, who appears from the entry to have filed 'charges against his officer,' and is remarked in pencil, 'papers missing.'"

Now, I consider it my duty to inform you that since writing to you on the 7th of January, 1835, I have accidentally found among a large and confused mass of papers in the garret of this building, two statements of accounts rendered by Colonel Moylan. From the indorsement on one of the statements, it appears to have been rendered on the 23d of January, 1790. There is nothing to show the particular date of the rendition of the second statement, but, as the amount of the statement rendered on the 23d January, 1790, is taken up in it, there can be no doubt but what it was rendered subsequent to that date, and probably before the date of Mr. Howell's letter of the 4th of March, 1794. The statement rendered on the 23d January, 1790, amounts to £35,899 10s. 9d., and appears to be exclusively for advances on cash paid the officers who are named as having received the money; but with the statement is filed statements of the accounts of Captains Craig, Fauntleroy, and Plunkett, (three of the officers who are charged with the money in Colonel Moylan's account, above referred to,) in which are credited considerable sums of money, with-

out stating from whom it was received, though it may be inferred, from the circumstances, that it was received from Colonel Moylan. The second statement amounts (after deducting the amount of the first-mentioned statement, say £35,899 10s. 9*d.*, taken up in it) to £8,478 12s. 1*d.*, and purports to be for expenditures made by Colonel Moylan; and the items of said statement are generally supported by vouchers.

With great respect,

PETER HAGNER, *Auditor.*

Hon. H. A. MUHLENBURG,

Chairman Com. on Rev. Claims, House of Reps.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

Third Auditor's Office, October 4, 1850.

A true copy:

JOHN S. GALLAHER,

Third Auditor.

